OPEN SPACE COUNCIL June 9, 2010, 9:00 a.m. Legislative Hall Senate Hearing Room, Second Floor Dover, Delaware

ATTENDANCE
<u>Council Members:</u>
Lynn W. Williams, Chairperson
Paul Boswell
Nathan Hayward, III
Wayne Holden

Ex-Officio:

John Schroeder

Charles A. Salkin, Parks & Recreation, DNREC

Guests:

Warren Reynolds Nick DiPasquale

Staff:

Matthew Chesser, Parks & Recreation, DNREC Shelley DiBona, Fish & Wildlife, DNREC Austin Short, DDA Elena Stewart, Parks & Recreation, DNREC Michael Valenti, Forestry, DDA Ron Vickers, Parks & Recreation, DNREC Jeff Stone, Delaware Economic Development Office

I Call to Order/Announcements

Mrs. Lynn Williams, Chairperson, called the regular Open Space Council meeting to order at 8:45 a.m. She welcomed Council members, visitors, and staff and asked for announcements.

Ms. Williams asked that we remember Mr. Rusty Harvey, Executive Director of Delaware Wild Lands and the good work his organization does. Mr. Harvey recently passed away. Today's meeting started early to allow people to attend his memorial service in Odessa later in the morning. Mr. Holden asked that Council write a letter of condolence.

Mr. Chesser introduced Mr. Warren Reynolds and Mr. Nick DiPasquale – both are working with him on projects in the Yorklyn-NVF area.

II Minutes of the March 9, 2010 Meeting

Mrs. Williams asked for approval of the March 9, 2010 meeting minutes. Minutes were approved with corrections.

III <u>Financial Report</u>

Mr. Vickers presented the financial report.

The remaining FY2009 Bond Bill Realty Transfer Tax funds total \$746,908.44. There are three anticipated reimbursements from federal sources: CELCP - \$995,000; Wildlife Restoration - \$300,000; and FEMA \$1,200,000.

There are two previously approved properties pending settlement from FY2009 funds - Borthwick property at Blackbird State Forest and Larrimore/Hitchens property, north of Trap Pond State Park – totaling \$2,284,889.00.

If all Federal monies come in as anticipated, there will be \$957,019.44 remaining from FY2009 funds.

The FY2010 Bond Bill appropriation is \$2,550,000, available on June 30, 2010. Two previously approved projects (NVF for \$1.6 million and Glatfelter-Hughes/Jones for \$500,000) leave a remaining balance from FY2010 funds of \$450,000.

VI Executive Session - Discussion of Site Acquisition Contracts

The Council adjourned to Executive Session at 8:59 a.m. to discuss site acquisition contracts. The Council returned to Open Session at 9:58 a.m.

VII Project Recommendations

Based on discussion in Executive Session, the Council recommends the following:

A. Yorklyn- Reynolds Property: It was moved, seconded, and agreed to recommend to the Secretary the purchase of a conservation easement for \$1,180,000, based on a September 2010 payment of \$680,000 and a September 2011 payment of \$500,000.

- B. Yorklyn-Thomas Property: It was moved, seconded, and agreed to recommend to the Secretary the purchase of a conservation easement, with an option to purchase, not to exceed \$200,000.
- C. Assawoman Canal-Short Property: It was moved, seconded, and agreed to recommend to the Secretary the purchase of a conservation easement for \$355,000.

Ms. Williams expressed her appreciation to The Nature Conservancy regarding the purchase of a conservation easement on the Island Farm property north of the Broadkill River near Primehook National Wildlife Refuge.

VI Next Meeting and Adjournment

The next Council meeting is scheduled for September 15, 2010 at the Legislative Hall, 2nd Floor Senate Hearing Room, Dover, DE.

Mrs. Williams asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting. The meeting adjourned at 10:01 a.m.

Transcribed/Rose Ryödi 302-739-9209